

6

Remarks

Claims 29 through 42, 44 and 47 through 50 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bingham '320. Claims 29 through 38, 44, 47 and 49 through 51 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Langley '853. Claims 49 through 52 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Dang '515. Claim 43 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bingham or Langley each in view of Dang. Claims 49 and 51 through 58 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleming '356. Claims 45 and 46 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Bingham or Langley.

In responding to these rejections, the Applicant has cancelled independent claim 29 and redirected the invention to new claim 59. The dependent claims have been cancelled or amended accordingly. New claim 59 recites a covering device for a vehicle and utilizes the terminology "consisting essentially of" in the preamble. The claimed covering device is therefore made from a tarpaulin element having a slit which extends parallel to an edge of the tarpaulin to define an elongated strip. The elongated strip can be separated in a direction substantially perpendicular to the slit and the edge to subdivide the strip into two strip sections, each or both of which can then be clamped into a door or flap of the vehicle being covered to secure the tarpaulin to the vehicle. Use of the terminology "consisting essentially of" disclaims additional elements which would be pertinent to the structure and function of the device, such as additional mounting devices or the like. The invention is therefore directed to a single piece structure which can be modified by the user by cutting transversely

through the strip to tailor the tarpaulin attachment strip to the particular structure of the vehicle being covered. The prior art of record neither discloses the structure now claimed nor provides any motivation therefor. The dependent claims of record inherit the limitations of the independent claim and are therefore also patentable. The invention is consequently sufficiently distinguished from the prior art to satisfy the conditions for patenting in the United States. Passage to issuance is therefore respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Vincent

Dr. Paul Vincent

Registration number 37,461

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Dreiss, Fuhlendorf, Steinle & Becker
Patentanwälte
Postfach 10 37 62
D-70032 Stuttgart, Germany
Telephone +49-711-24 89 38-0
Fax +49-711-24 89 38-99